

Written Testimony Submissions - Agenda Item 437

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Anonymous	Support	We support: No daytime street camping. This needs to be done immediately.	05/26/23 12:40 PM
437	No	Joe Hovey	Support	<p>We need to make this happen. Especially the provision as follows: The settlement requires the City to prioritize the removal of campsites obstructing sidewalks. The City will assess reported sidewalk obstructions within 5 business days, and the City will commit 40% of annual campsite removals to address sidewalk obstructions. In addition, requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities will receive priority for this work. The City will maintain an integrated campsite reporting system, and the City generally will not distribute tents, except in limited situations.</p> <p>This part is extremely important to get people off of the streets and into shelter and treatment. Enough of the enabling that we have done with these groups. It might just jolt the homeless to do something about their situation!</p>	05/26/23 3:27 PM
437	No	Christopher Braun	Support	<p>We need to make this happen. Especially the provision as follows: The settlement requires the City to prioritize the removal of campsites obstructing sidewalks. The City will assess reported sidewalk obstructions within 5 business days, and the City will commit 40% of annual campsite removals to address sidewalk obstructions. In addition, requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities will receive priority for this work. The City will maintain an integrated campsite reporting system, and the City generally will not distribute tents, except in limited situations.</p> <p>This part is extremely important to get people off of the streets and into shelter and treatment. Enough of the enabling that we have done with these groups. It might just jolt the homeless to do something about their situation!</p>	05/26/23 3:28 PM
437	No	David Spaulding	Support	<p>Dear mayor and all commissioners, I am writing this testimony to express my support to settle the ADA sidewalk lawsuit. As a Deaf individual, I feel my life is unnecessarily at risk of getting harmed by dodging vehicles when being forced to walk on busy streets due to tents/tarps and personal belongings blocking the sidewalks. A sidewalk is not a designated campground. I am just fortunate that I am able-bodied to walk around the blockages with caution but I cannot imagine what it is like for others who are more limited mobility and facing much far at risk of getting harmed by going off the sidewalks onto busy streets. The corrective actions to settle the lawsuit are reasonable and appropriate to remedy the potential harms to any residents and tourists. Thank you for considering doing the right thing and that is making sidewalks accessible for ALL residents and tourists, not just one particular group. Thank you for your time to read this testimony.</p>	05/26/23 3:46 PM
437	No	Javier Sodo	Support	<p>Please authorize the settlement to help clear sidewalks of ADA NON COMPLIANT tents and structures. It's time to stop allowing individuals to take over public property and impede pedestrians access. It's unsafe to force pedestrians to walk in the street. Thank you.</p>	05/26/23 4:26 PM
437	No	Joe Pearson	Support	<p>I fully support this agenda. I have been in a wheelchair since I was a hit & run victim after being struck by an escooter 1 year ago & never had any idea how hard it is for people with mobility issues to get around the streets of Portland. My medications I pick up are located at 10 & Hoyt and I am forced to have to dangerously wheel through the streets because the sidewalk is blocked with tents or other debris as well as just being in terrible condition and hard to navigate. There's many other areas I have encountered like this but this one specifically comes to mind.</p>	05/26/23 5:14 PM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Jerome Mohammed Robinson	Support	<p>As a concerned citizen, I firmly believe that Portland, OR should not allow camping on public sidewalks for the following reasons:</p> <p>Safety and Accessibility: Allowing camping on public sidewalks can create significant safety hazards for both campers and pedestrians. Sidewalks are intended for safe and unobstructed passage, ensuring that everyone, including people with disabilities, can navigate freely. By permitting camping, we risk impeding access, hindering emergency services, and increasing the likelihood of accidents or injuries.</p> <p>Health and Sanitation Concerns: Unregulated camping on sidewalks can lead to unsanitary conditions, posing health risks for both campers and the broader community. The lack of proper waste disposal facilities, hygiene infrastructure, and sanitation services in these areas can result in the spread of diseases, vermin infestations, and environmental degradation. It is crucial to prioritize public health and maintain cleanliness to protect the well-being of residents.</p> <p>Negative Impact on Local Economy: Allowing camping on public sidewalks can have a detrimental effect on local businesses. Sidewalks are essential for creating an inviting and accessible environment for the disabled, shoppers, diners, and tourists. If sidewalks become occupied by tents and makeshift shelters, it can deter potential customers, impacting the economic vitality of the area and jeopardizing the livelihoods of local businesses and their employees.</p> <p>Encouraging Appropriate Solutions: Instead of permitting camping on public sidewalks, it is vital to invest in and promote alternative solutions to address homelessness. This includes increasing the availability of temporary shelter, expanding support services for mental health and addiction, and partnering ONLY with accountable nonprofits and organizations dedicated to actually getting people off the street instead of making street camping more comfortable. By focusing on long-term solutions, we can provide individuals experiencing homelessness with the support they require while preserving the integrity and functionality of public spaces.</p> <p>Protecting the Rights of All: Ensuring the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness should not come at the expense of the rights of other Portland community members. Public sidewalks are shared spaces that should be accessible to all, fostering a sense of community and enabling individuals to move freely. By restricting camping on sidewalks, we can strike a balance that respects the rights and needs of everyone, promoting inclusivity and fairness.</p> <p>It is crucial to address the issue of homelessness compassionately and effectively, but allowing camping on public sidewalks is not the solution. By prioritizing safety, accessibility, public health, the local economy, and the rights of all residents, we can work towards sustainable and comprehensive strategies that provide support and assistance to those experiencing homelessness while maintaining the integrity of our public spaces</p>	05/27/23 6:16 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>I am in opposition of this and believe it should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Yes, some people may pose threats and could be considered dangerous and harmful at times, but that doesn't mean every unhoused person is. There have been multiple tents set up by my place of work for months at a time and not once have I felt unsafe. The people hardly ever leave their tents during the day. The sidewalks are big enough for people to comfortably and safely pass by without having to walk in the street. I know every situation is different—but this would effectively make houselessness a crime, and people would quite literally be pushed to the streets. This is by no means any solution to the housing crisis in Portland, I think better efforts could be made for the sake of everyone's safety and comfort.</p>	05/27/23 1:20 PM
437	No	North Tabor Resident	Support	<p>Sooo tired of campers taking over sidewalks causing my elderly mother to constantly figure out ways around these blockages with her walker. This city need to stop being the joke of the country and that can start by keeping sidewalks clear and enforcing policies to discourage Portland to be a destination for people with addiction issues.</p>	05/27/23 8:19 PM
437	Yes	Resident of Portland	Support	<p>Please understand that there are many who currently access the sidewalk in some places due to camps and makeshift structures blocking the right of way. This has effected me and my family and has been the cause of avoiding areas we once loved. The sidewalks, parks, and public spaces should be accessible to everyone.</p>	05/28/23 12:39 AM
437	Yes	Ashley Lakovic	Support	<p>We need clear sidewalks! Kids at my sons school have to exit into the busy roads because campers have taken over the sidewalks next to his school. I'm not sure why the road next to his school isn't on the safe routes list but it isn't. An RV caught fire on that street and all the kids were moved to the center of the school because the air became so toxic. Disabled people can't pass by.. there's so much trash.. this has to stop</p>	05/28/23 6:34 AM
437	No	Thomas Fawell	Support	<p>Please vote FOR this settlement which will help our disabled, school children and even able bodied adult residents be able to use our public sidewalks safely again. Thank you.</p>	05/28/23 7:26 AM
437	No	Linda B	Support	<p>We must take back our city and our sidewalks.</p>	05/28/23 7:55 AM
437	Yes	Portland Resident	Support	<p>I support this measure. Please work to keep the RIGHT of way and all public areas clear of unsanctioned camping. The pursuit of happiness is a RIGHT. Thank you! .</p>	05/28/23 9:25 AM
437	No	Amy Lynn Caplan	Support	<p>My 82 year mother in law and I live downtown near Pettygrove Park. I am 61 year old. We feel so unsafe around all the mentally ill and drug addicted people with erratic behavior who have full reigns of our streets. We never go out on foot at night and it's very scary even during the day. Please make the streets safe for all Portlanders, esp. females, children, elders and folks who need mobility devices. Thank you.</p>	05/28/23 11:37 AM



Trace M.

Sunnyside • Now



Unleashed large dog belonging to a camper who has been experiencing a mental health crisis on SE 30th and Washington/Stark. Please use caution if you or your kids are walking in the area.



ELAB

SAFEMART

Moon L







Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Anonymous	Support	We, taxpayers, and portland lovers, have made so much progress for ADA, and increasing livability and accessibility to our mobility challenged, tax paying citizens. we have paid a great deal in taxes to support accessibility initiatives. and to have this erased by campers blocking sidewalks is a robbery in plain sight (by non tax payers) of the sheer cash that has been spent to give disabled people a life. And the waste of money to make the city more accessible is eclipsed by our moral failure to grant our disabled citizens the dignity of mobility by NOT ENFORCING EXISTING HARD FOUGHT laws to prevent loitering / camping / block sidewalks. If i parked a car on the sidewalk i would surely be towed within an hour. but if the car is a tent, it can not be treated any differently. Our tax paying disabled citizens deserve to use the sidewalks they paid for. PLEASE PASS THIS MEASURE AND KEEP BLOCKAGES LIKE TENTS OFF OUR SIDEWALKS. (or else let's change the name of side-walk to side-something-else, and let's collect new funds/ millions of dollars taxes to build some other kind of new walkway that tax-payers in wheelchairs can actually use to get around our city).	05/28/23 11:40 AM
437	No	Michael Rosa	Support	I fully support that the city settles this ADA lawsuit. Although the city states it "...does not admit that it has violated or failed to comply with or has any liability to Plaintiffs under any provisions of the ADA", it can be seen with the naked eye over a minimum of the past two years that it did nothing to mitigate the issues caused by sidewalk and public way camping which made places impassible. Example is Laurelhurst Park where residents repeatedly reported to this council the often over 60 plus tent encampment that fully blocked access into the park area, forcing those with disabilities to roam into dangerously busy streets and often prevented from any access. Many of those residents with disabilities notified the city, yet it did fall on deaf ears. I applaud those in this case for speaking out because the issues they dealt with were and are still the same the rest of us Portlanders have been begging the city to deal with....it took a lawsuit for all of us to benefit!	05/28/23 4:49 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Portland desperately needs this to be put in place. We have to start somewhere, start to seriously address random camping and all its associated ills.	05/28/23 10:51 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	I fully support the settlement agreement. I have a family member who mobility restricted and requires a mobility devices to get around. There are many this is in the city we could not access due to sidewalk obstructions. Not only are the campsite obstructions a physical barrier, but the general problem of garbage, litter, human waste, drug paraphernalia, and mentally ill individuals in the areas near campsites are a psychological barrier to feeling safe and secure. She would absolutely never visit these areas by herself for her safety and well-being. I do not know why her comfort and safety to enjoy what the city has to offer is currently regarded with lower importance than the comfort and safety of the homeless population.	05/28/23 10:52 PM
437	No	CMF	Support	Dear Mayor Wheeler & Council, Thank you for agreeing to the ADA settlement agreement. I believe the stipulations are a great start in assuring the legally required use of access for the disabled residents of Portland, as well as all residents. Ensuring 40% of overall camps removed are blocking ADA access is a great metric, as well as committing to removing at least 500 campsites from sidewalks each year. Giving an easier option to our ADA residents to make reporting easier for them is also a wonderful option you will be providing them. 5 business days to asses the site is a good goal to start with, but I hope the city will strive to keep it within the 72 hour required campsite removal notice period once new camping ordinances are starting to be enforced. Thank you Commissioner Gonzalez for halting the city's distribution of tents and tarps and applaud efforts to continue to not do that. I encourage the city to work with the county to encourage them to do the same with our tax dollars. Posting 'no camping' signs in areas that are overly affected by illegal camping on our ADA residents is a great step in the right direction, and I fully agree with the one-time payment agreement to each plaintiff in this lawsuit for the damages they have had to endure for the last 3 plus years. Thank you for voting yes on this settlement agreement. Best, Portland resident and tax payer	05/29/23 6:40 AM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Becky Garvey	Support	<p>Dear Mayor Wheeler & Council,</p> <p>Thank you for agreeing to the ADA settlement agreement. I believe the stipulations are a great start in assuring the legally required use of access for the disabled residents of Portland, as well as all residents.</p> <p>Ensuring 40% of overall camps removed are blocking ADA access is a great metric, as well as committing to removing at least 500 campsites from sidewalks each year. Giving an easier option to our ADA residents to make reporting easier for them is also a wonderful option you will be providing them. 5 business days to assess the site is a good goal to start with, but I hope the city will strive to keep it within the 72 hour required campsite removal notice period once new camping ordinances are starting to be enforced.</p> <p>Thank you Commissioner Gonzalez for halting the city's distribution of tents and tarps and applaud efforts to continue to not do that. I encourage the city to work with the county to encourage them to do the same with our tax dollars.</p> <p>Posting 'no camping' signs in areas that are overly affected by illegal camping on our ADA residents is a great step in the right direction, and I fully agree with the one-time payment agreement to each plaintiff in this lawsuit for the damages they have had to endure for the last 3 plus years.</p> <p>Thank you for voting yes on this settlement agreement.</p>	05/29/23 10:21 AM
437	No	Jim Baucom	Support	<p>I support the immediate removal of camping locations that obstruct sidewalks which impede travel by Americans with disabilities.</p> <p>The city, PBOT, spent millions creating sidewalk ramps to comply with ADA rules .</p> <p>In my neighborhood, several neighbors had their sidewalks leading to the ramps tagged by PBOT, and we, citizens and taxpayers, complied during COVID.</p> <p>Yet the city continues to allow the illegal tent camping by vagrants throughout Portland sidewalks to everyone's detriment for mobility and safety.</p> <p>It's time for sanity, safety, and mobility again.</p>	05/29/23 10:22 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	I support the settlement for disabled. Keep the sidewalks clear for everyone	05/29/23 11:59 AM
437	No	Cathy Miller	Support	Please support Agenda Item 437. I have a mobility issue and cannot navigate blocked sidewalks safely. I need the sidewalks to be clear so that I can move around my neighborhood and the city again.	05/29/23 7:51 PM
437	No	Daniel	Support	Please ban camping on the sidewalks. It has ruined our city and destroyed our downtown. This is make break for our city, and we can bring portland back. It is inhumane to allow people to camp on the streets, and it is dangerous to the rest of the citizens. Please, please ban camping. This will bring massive change.	05/29/23 8:09 PM
437	No	Joshua Woods	Support	Yes this is very much needed	05/29/23 8:34 PM
437	No	Dail Taylor	Support	Camping on the streets and on public spaces should be illegal if isn't already; if it is, it should be enforced and executed to the best of the City's ability. This should be handled in the most compassionate way possible, but public safety, integrity, and the economy are of paramount importance. When I say "economy", I'm not talking about putting dollars and cents ahead of human life; on the contrary, the economy encapsulates the foundation that keeps society moving forward. The increasing and excessive lawlessness and homelessness we've all witnessed over the last number of years threatens this greatly. Americans with disabilities cannot travel freely, I've witnessed the use of every drug under the sun, I don't feel comfortable escorting school children on field trips, I don't feel comfortable bringing my siblings on weekend activities, I've been harassed, and I've given serious consideration to moving out of the area. Diversity is our strength and people of all backgrounds can agree that these conditions are not right. In my opinion, we should consider something like Andrew Yang's public dividend to run simultaneous with public safety laws. Thank you.	05/29/23 8:48 PM
437	No	Morgan Allard	Support	I work at a trade school in downtown Portland and homelessness and camping is adversely affecting our business and the safety of our students. It should be stopped.	05/29/23 9:18 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Let's clean up Portland!	05/29/23 9:22 PM
437	No	Dominic Holt	Support	I feel like living and working in Portland has become quite hazardous due to the increase in homelessness and drugs living on the sidewalks. Those living on the streets also use the streets for their restrooms which means those in the city working have to wash clean their buildings from excrement daily. Living in campsites on the streets should not continue due to the health and safety issues involved. There has to be another way.	05/29/23 9:39 PM
437	No	Kathryn Holt	Support	I support agenda 437. As a professional who works downtown, I see first hand how camping on the sidewalks negatively affects the city. Accessibility to the sidewalks by those with mobility difficulties is extremely hampered and in many cases altogether denied by campsites. The areas around Campsites become cluttered with trash that spills onto the street, and pedestrians are forced to walk onto the streets to maneuver around the city.	05/29/23 9:55 PM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Elyse A	Support	<p>I support this bill. I am scared to walk alone even during the day. I won't want to bring my kids downtown and I know many who don't either.</p> <p>I see drug use rampant, all over the place. I work downtown and every day I walk past people doing drugs. I can't bring my kids past these areas where people are openly doing drugs. I feel unsafe.</p>	05/29/23 10:12 PM
437	No	Pablo Nakamura, Portland Party	Support	<p>AGENDA ITEM 437</p> <p>Dear Mayor Wheeler & Council,</p> <p>Thank you for agreeing to the ADA settlement agreement. I believe the stipulations are a great start in assuring the legally required use of access for the disabled residents of Portland, as well as all residents.</p> <p>Ensuring 40% of overall camps removed are blocking ADA access is a great metric, as well as committing to removing at least 500 campsites from sidewalks each year. Giving an easier option to our ADA residents to make reporting easier for them is also a wonderful option you will be providing them. 5 business days to assess the site is a good goal to start with, but I hope the city will strive to keep it within the 72 hour required campsite removal notice period once new camping ordinances are starting to be enforced.</p> <p>Thank you Commissioner Gonzalez for halting the city's distribution of tents and tarps and applaud efforts to continue to not do that. I encourage the city to work with the county to encourage them to do the same with our tax dollars.</p> <p>Posting 'no camping' signs in areas that are overly affected by illegal camping on our ADA residents is a great step in the right direction, and I fully agree with the one-time payment agreement to each plaintiff in this lawsuit for the damages they have had to endure for the last 3 plus years.</p> <p>Thank you for voting yes on this settlement agreement.</p>	05/30/23 6:14 AM
437	No	Ben	Support	<p>I support the permanent removal of any form of sidewalk camping in downtown Portland. Downtown should be a place of commerce, entertainment, culture, and community, and should be family friendly. Sidewalks are frequently impassable due to camping obstructions forcing me to walk in our across the street to get around them. It's not fair for those with disabilities. Let's return downtown to its former glory and make it a place we can all be proud of. This will be an important step to that end. Thank you!</p>	05/30/23 8:18 AM
437	No	DW	Support with changes	<p>In support of the city completing sweeps. Recommendation to impose fines onto those who are in violation to assist with cost recuperation and deterrent. Recommend sweeps to include sidewalks, motorways, bicycles lanes including I-205 bike path, trails, and recreational areas. Recommend to extend the radius to within 15 feet of sidewalks, motorways, bicycles lanes including I-205 bike path, trails, and recreational areas. Purpose of to extend radius is to account for waste, trash, hazardous materials, and spillage from tent sites.</p>	05/30/23 9:54 AM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Jude Baas	Support	<p>Dear Mayor Wheeler & Council,</p> <p>I support your agreeing to the ADA settlement. This is a viable start to assuring the legally required use of access for the disabled residents of Portland, as well as all residents and a first step toward healing our city and its people.</p> <p>Ensuring 40% of overall camps removed are blocking ADA access is a great metric, as well as committing to removing at least 500 campsites from sidewalks each year. Giving an easier option to our ADA residents to make reporting easier for them is also a wonderful option you will be providing them. 5 business days to assess the site, and striving to keep it within the 72 hour required campsite removal notice period is a good start. Posting 'no camping' signs in areas that are affected by illegal camping and enforcing these restrictions with outreach and treatment alternatives, as well as restorative incarceration when laws are broken is also a necessary step forward.</p> <p>Thank you Commissioner Gonzalez for holding the city accountable to an actionable long term plan, and for seeking to end the destructive and inhumane policies that the county and city have supported under the wasteful and shortsighted guise of "harm reduction".</p> <p>I strongly support the city working with the county to encourage their commissioners to do the same with our tax dollars; to articulate a specific, actionable long term plan with transparent accountability. Anything short of this should be considered incompetence.</p> <p>Thank you for voting yes on this settlement agreement, and for your tireless efforts to restore this city and its people, and end this inhumane catastrophe.</p> <p>Jude Baas</p>	05/30/23 10:19 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	<p>ear Mayor Wheeler & Council,</p> <p>Thank you for agreeing to the ADA settlement agreement. I believe the stipulations are a great start in assuring the legally required use of access for the disabled residents of Portland, as well as all residents. Ensuring 40% of overall camps removed are blocking ADA access is a great metric, as well as committing to removing at least 500 campsites from sidewalks each year. Giving an easier option to our ADA residents to make reporting easier for them is also a wonderful option you will be providing them. 5 business days to assess the site is a good goal to start with, but I hope the city will strive to keep it within the 72 hour required campsite removal notice period once new camping ordinances are starting to be enforced.</p> <p>Thank you Commissioner Gonzalez for halting the city's distribution of tents and tarps and applaud efforts to continue to not do that. I encourage the city to work with the county to encourage them to do the same with our tax dollars.</p> <p>Posting 'no camping' signs in areas that are overly affected by illegal camping on our ADA residents is a great step in the right direction, and I fully agree with the one-time payment agreement to each plaintiff in this lawsuit for the damages they have had to endure for the last 3 plus years.</p> <p>Thank you for voting yes on this settlement agreement.</p>	05/30/23 10:44 AM
437	No	Martha Fitzsimon		<p>I support the plaintiffs in the lawsuit to keep sidewalks clear of tents 100%. Our sidewalks are not designed to be campsites. There are no facilities to use the restroom, wash hands/bodies. Sidewalks are for pedestrian travel not camping.</p>	05/30/23 11:11 AM
437	No	Andrew Barker	Support	<p>Please approve this settlement now. We need to stop camping on Portland sidewalks.</p>	05/30/23 11:41 AM
437	No	Danny	Support	<p>The homeless tents downtown and throughout the city have not only been a complete eyesore and have given Portland a reputation of utter degradation, allowing people to do so is actually completely inhumane. There is an infinity of other solutions and allowing people to tent on the streets is completely lazy and irresponsible and allows the bigger issues not to be addressed. Solutions like actually getting these people into homeless shelters. There is extra room in the shelters right now that is not being used. Why? Why would someone want to stay in a shelter when they can just pitch a tent wherever they feel like it? I have a friend in a wheelchair who comes downtown to work EVERY day, for the last 40 years. Her life has been difficult enough after being paralyzed from the hip down. Now she has to take longer routed around different blocks that have tents on them, or try to wheel by the tents and their trash and needles and get harassed as she's doing so? This is completely unfair.</p> <p>It's not to say that the homeless issue isn't a humanitarian crisis. It is. We need to solve this. But allowing people to tent on our streets is NOT the solution and not even a temporary stopgap. The majority of these people are drug addicts and suffer from mental illness. Real solutions need to be put in place, and allowing people to rent wherever they want is NOT one of those solutions, but instead allows those solutions to keep going on being neglected as they have been for years now.</p>	05/30/23 2:33 PM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Enough is enough. I'm tired of seeing sidewalks littered with garbage - including used hypodermic needles! It's well past time for a change.	05/30/23 3:49 PM
437	No	Stan Vernon	Support	This needs to happen. Reason one: without a vibrant downtown scene, a city cannot thrive. Small businesses have suffered enough through prioritization of camps over customers. Reason two: city streets and parkways should be kept clean, safe, and accessible to all--period. Reason three: the threat to responsible citizens from those who are not responsible owing to mental health and substance abuse issues is real and ongoing. So far they have not been prioritized highly enough in the distribution of our many tax dollars supposedly going to address the homelessness crisis. Reason four: this is a city-government-manufactured crisis that started with the abandonment of leadership under Charlie Hales. For eight years no one has been willing to address it head-on. Please do so now.	05/30/23 4:13 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Dear Council members, I moved to Portland shortly after finishing my nurse residency and quickly realized this was home. I have worked as a bedside nurse in the Portland Metro Area for six years now, and I haven't imagined myself living anywhere else for years. Over the last two or so years, I noticed a massive change. Portland is no longer walkable. Collectively, we decided it was necessary to allow large campsites to take over our sidewalks. Walking downtown, I find myself stepping over needles and mounds of human feces. Our unique and beautiful downtown district is filthy and a cursory view from a cab effectively chases tourists away. I love Portland, but you couldn't pay me to live downtown. The heart of our city is dying. What makes this situation wholly unacceptable is that these camps blocked off whole swaths of the town for those of us with mobility difficulties. You are going to hear testimony from "advocates" for the homeless who will find any small reason to argue against the approval of the ADA settlement. I will not mince words. What they are saying is: "those housed people living with a disability don't deserve our consideration". I don't know about you but, in my Portland, everyone gets taken care of. We don't ignore the needs of people simply because they have the privilege of shelter. Our unhoused neighbors need help - but not at the expense of someone's ability to participate in city life.	05/30/23 4:39 PM
437	No	Thomas Fischer	Support	I strongly urge the council to authorize the City Attorney to settle the lawsuit related to sidewalk obstructions, under the terms proposed.	05/30/23 4:50 PM
437	No	Mikenicholas562@gmail.com	Support	Americans with disabilities and compliance with ADA standards isn't just the right thing to do, it's Federal law. Last time I checked, Federal law trumps homelessness camping.	05/30/23 6:21 PM
437	No	Linda Atwill	Support	I strongly support settling the ADA violation lawsuit in accordance with the mediated proposal. Portland and its residents have always been committed to equity. Our city, and all its infrastructure, including sidewalks should be accessible to all. Continuing to violate the ADA is not acceptable. Nor is it excusable, given the availability of shelter beds, the millions of taxpayer dollars allocated to getting people off the streets, and the threat the public safety.	05/30/23 7:00 PM
437	No	Jonathan Raz	Support	Agreeing to this settlement is a minuscule step in the right direction for a City that has completely abandoned its taxpaying, law abiding citizens. Sidewalk encampments have been unlawful for decades. The City's complete acquiescence on enforcing the laws that are on the books has led to egregious ADA violations that harm the City's most vulnerable. That we've even gotten to this point further reinforces that this settlement is a SMALL but NECESSARY step to BEGIN to undo the damage done over the past several years as a result of enabling encampments and the attendant crime, disease, violence, and harm to local business that it has caused. As has already been brought to light in the litigation and related testimony, allowing street encampment has wrought dire consequences on our City's disabled residents who are simply attempting to move around the City with dignity. I would note that the settlement's requirement that tarps not be distributed by the City needs to be accompanied by a commitment by Multnomah County to stop distributing tarps and tents, as well. Without the City and County moving in coordination, this settlement will have zero effect. Thank you for considering the rights and concerns of the disabled and other residents and taxpayers in Portland.	05/30/23 7:12 PM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Anonymous	Support	<p>Dear Mayor Wheeler & Council,</p> <p>Thank you for agreeing to the ADA settlement agreement. I believe the stipulations are a great start in assuring the legally required use of access for the disabled residents of Portland, as well as all residents.</p> <p>Ensuring 40% of overall camps removed are blocking ADA access is a great metric, as well as committing to removing at least 500 campsites from sidewalks each year. Giving an easier option to our ADA residents to make reporting easier for them is also a wonderful option you will be providing them. 5 business days to assess the site is a good goal to start with, but I hope the city will strive to keep it within the 72 hour required campsite removal notice period once new camping ordinances are starting to be enforced.</p> <p>Thank you Commissioner Gonzalez for halting the city's distribution of tents and tarps and applaud efforts to continue to not do that. I encourage the city to work with the county to encourage them to do the same with our tax dollars.</p> <p>Posting 'no camping' signs in areas that are overly affected by illegal camping on our ADA residents is a great step in the right direction, and I fully agree with the one-time payment agreement to each plaintiff in this lawsuit for the damages they have had to endure for the last 3 plus years.</p> <p>Thank you for voting yes on this settlement agreement.</p>	05/30/23 8:09 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	<p>As a long-time Portland resident, it is depressing to see "The City that Works" become the city that needs a lawsuit to force it to do the bare minimum by allowing ALL RESIDENTS the right to use the sidewalk. The taxpayers voted for funds to get the homeless off the streets, not to make them more comfortable on the streets. Hopefully this settlement agreement will be the start of a turnaround to make Portland more like the city it used to be.</p>	05/30/23 9:40 PM
437	No	Steven Rebischke, ADA Plaintiff	Support	<p>Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners – my name is Steven Rebischke I am one of the Plaintiff's in the ADA lawsuit as Caretaker for my disabled friend, Robert Meyers. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the matter before you on his behalf.</p> <p>Robert had a stroke in 2011 and a Wernicke's Encephalopathy episode in 2017. He has worked hard and improved his mobility from wheelchair to walker to cane – by working hard on his physical therapy and getting up/out and walking. If you ask his doctor, he says Robert is a medical miracle and that walking has saved his life. Since the pandemic, walking in Portland has been a real challenge – blocked sidewalks, unsafe sidewalks are his reality. Difficulty getting to appointments (medical, physical therapy, mental health) in and out of stores and facilities (especially downtown). At times it has been a literal health risk when Robert is forced to walk in the road. He moves slowly, deliberately.</p> <p>Thank you for negotiating this agreement – for stepping up and making a commitment to address these systemic and egregious Civil Rights violations. You will make the lives of disabled people safer and more enjoyable – immediately.</p> <p>Taking strong measures to improve the safety/livability of our sidewalks, public spaces and rights of way is something 4 out of 5 Portlanders strongly support. Listen to the Polls – they reflect the will of the people. Please do not let the small, but loud Perpetually Aggrieved Mob steal your attention. Do the job you signed up to do – represent the will of the governed! Clean up our city. Make it Safer.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>	05/30/23 11:24 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support		05/31/23 6:53 AM
437	No	Susan Seubert & Steven Josefsberg	Support	<p>The ADA laws were written to protect access for people with mobility issues and should be upheld. I fully support the city attorney settling the lawsuit in favor of the plaintiffs by making any kind of sidewalk, or other public right-of-way, obstruction illegal.</p> <p>Sincerely, Susan Seubert and Steven Josefsberg</p>	05/31/23 7:40 AM
437	No	Lents Resident	Support	<p>I strongly support settling lawsuit related to sidewalk obstructions. As a resident of the Lents neighborhood sidewalk obstruction and camps/compounds set up in public sidewalks has been an issue for a long time now</p>	05/31/23 8:11 AM
437	No	Richard E Anaya II	Support	<p>I think this is an important step toward justice toward citizens for the failings of our government and establishes necessary funders for campsite removal.</p>	05/31/23 8:22 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	<p>I support making sidewalks and pedestrian space safe for people with disabilities. It is insane that things have gotten this bad and every city official who was part to the current disaster in Portland should be ashamed.</p>	05/31/23 8:24 AM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Edie Lander	Support	As the child of a parent who became disabled later in life, I urge you to vote yes on #437. Those with mobility issues should not have to endanger themselves by going in the street to get around tents or other obstructions on sidewalks. The rights of those with mobility issues should not be denied or subordinated.	05/31/23 8:48 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support		05/31/23 9:22 AM
437	No	Marci Macfarlane	Support with changes	I believe that we need change, but I'm not sure if a ban on sleeping during the day is the right direction. I want to see Portland improve and return to the City of Roses that I grew up in and love. I would prefer to see a ban on camping on the sidewalks, parks and high traffic areas. Thought the camp that I live near is full of drugged out mentally ill folks, I believe that they are still people and need some compassion. I personally have lost all my empathy and compassion, but I believe that my City still has to do the right thing for these people. Please keep up the sweeps, keep working to get safe rest villages and more affordable housing. We need to stop providing people tents and tarps to invade our green spaces and sidewalks. These people need help, mental services and addiction treatment. I fully support using Bybee Lakes Hope Center for a lot of these people that need addiction treatment. I do not know how to fix this problem, but I really hope that I voted for the right people to fix my city.	05/31/23 9:25 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	There is substantial support to reduce the tolerance of unchecked houseless camping. The vast majority of Portlanders support providing help for the drug addicted and houseless community, however us citizens deserve to enjoy our city as well. The ability to do so is being drastically impacted by the need to navigate camps and threatening people while simply trying to be in the city	05/31/23 9:26 AM
437	No	Brenda Hanson, RN		We need to ban sidewalk camping. I don't feel safe walking anywhere near these camps and I am a registered nurse. I have a lot of experience working with people with mental illness and addiction issues. As an ER nurse, I have seen the problems and the dangers with someone who is high on meth and I have seen my colleagues get hurt while working in the emergency department we cannot allow this humanitarian crisis to continue while putting people at risk for being injured or killed while walking on our Portland streets. Please support Mayor Wheelers plan to provide sanctioned camping with resources and do not allow people to camp wherever they please. Thank you.	05/31/23 9:44 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	This is a step in the right direction, and our city should support it.	05/31/23 10:12 AM
437	No	Olivia Bakke	Support	Campers are not contributing or paying taxes and create huge amounts of trash while limiting parking without consequence. More importantly campers on our streets and sidewalks impede pedestrians and are dangerous for walking people particularly children. Ban daytime camping.	05/31/23 10:14 AM
437	No	Logan OBrien	Support	We collectively, as a society, chose to make our cities more equitable for disabled people through the installation of ADA sidewalks. It is not just a slap in the face to the disabled population, but a full-on shameful dereliction and abdication of responsibility to them, to cede the usage of those sidewalks to the homeless.	05/31/23 10:21 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	The city should settle this lawsuit and should never allow our sidewalks to be blocked	05/31/23 10:32 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support		05/31/23 10:37 AM
437	No	Anonymous		I support a complete ban on daytime homeless camping and wish it was 24 hours rather than daytime hours but it's a start!	05/31/23 11:00 AM
437	No	Jason Zaslaw	Support with changes	Due to today's City Council meeting running long I had to drop from the call, prior to being able to give testimony on agenda item 437 #29. Please accept my written testimony, as follows: I'm attending in support of agenda item 437 and the ADA lawsuit settlement, based on the premise that it is the right of the citizens, fully able as well as disabled, to use our public right-of-ways for the intended purposes, and not be impeded by those who willingly choose to violate laws and city code. My support of this item is also dependent on the county being held equally, financially accountable, in this settlement.	05/31/23 11:13 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Banning daytime camping would be a useful first step in reclaiming Portland for ALL its citizens. Those who say that it leaves tent dwellers without resources should remember that Portland's homeless managed for years without the option of setting up camps wherever they please. In addition, I am very concerned about the enormous fire risk posed by encampments - both in visible areas of the city and in our parks and wild areas such as Hoyt Arboretum and Forest Park. This piece needs to be addressed in concert with dealing with the more visible encampments around the city.	05/31/23 11:14 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Please keep our streets and neighborhoods clean and safe. More rehab and mental health support for unhoused.	05/31/23 11:22 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	I support the city settling the lawsuit with the ADA. Our sidewalks should be accessible to all, including those with disabilities. I'm ashamed that our city let the condition of public rights of way to get so bad the ADA had to bring legal action. I hope this settlement pressures the city to do a better job maintaining its infrastructure and prioritizing livability for its constituents.	05/31/23 11:26 AM

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Anonymous	Support		05/31/23 11:37 AM
437	Yes	Disability Rights Oregon	Oppose	Thank you for the opportunity to address the City Council on the importance of the city's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At Disability Rights Oregon, we have worked for decades to ensure that city sidewalks, curb ramps, and other facilities are free from barriers that prevent access for people with disabilities. DRO opposes Agenda Item 437, the proposed settlement of Tozer v. City of Portland. Our full testimony is attached as a PDF.	05/31/23 11:39 AM
437	No	Mary Anne Sanford	Support	<p>As a long-time resident of Portland, I fully support agenda item 437 and urge the authorization of the City Attorney to settle the lawsuit related to sidewalk obstructions caused by campsites. Having witnessed the significant changes in our city since 1955, I understand the importance of addressing the issue of homelessness for the well-being and safety of our community.</p> <p>The presence of campsites obstructing sidewalks has become a growing concern, not only for the residents but also for the individuals experiencing homelessness themselves. It is essential to find a resolution that balances compassion and empathy with the need for a safe and accessible environment for everyone.</p> <p>Listening to the testimonies and experiences shared by fellow residents, it is clear that the situation has become increasingly alarming. It is vital for the city to take action and support measures that address this issue promptly and effectively.</p> <p>While it is important to consider the perspectives of various stakeholders, it is crucial to prioritize the overall well-being and best interests of the city. This means not letting ideologically driven activists overshadow the need for practical and sustainable solutions.</p> <p>By authorizing the City Attorney to settle the lawsuit and pay the claims of named plaintiffs, including attorneys' fees as directed by the Court, we can work towards a resolution that benefits both those experiencing homelessness and the broader community. This step will allow for the implementation of strategies that strike a balance between compassion and ensuring public safety.</p> <p>Change is necessary, and by supporting agenda item 437, we can demonstrate our commitment to creating a safer, more inclusive, and healthier Portland for everyone.</p>	05/31/23 11:39 AM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	As an active pedestrian, I find that I frequently have to cross the street in order to avoid piles of garbage or what is otherwise somebody's home on the sidewalk. Unfortunately, the pedestrian infrastructure in the city is so shoddy that I often have to walk multiple blocks in the wrong direction to find a safe alternative that doesn't involve running across 5 lanes of traffic. If the city is unwilling to create safe pedestrian infrastructure, the least they could so is ensure that the existing sidewalk is kept clear.	05/31/23 12:35 PM
437	No	Grant Huling	Support	The ADA has birthed the principle of Universal Design: What is good design serving those with disabilities is also beneficial to those without limitations. Indeed, not having anti-social (almost by definition, for choosing to reside in the middle of a sidewalk) tent dwellers blocking the sidewalk is good for us all.	05/31/23 12:38 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	Start putting taxpayers at the forefront. People who need ADA shouldnt have to fight for it. Its bad enough having to traverse a sidewalk able bodied. Dodging shit, piss, bodies and trash. Or not being able to use it at all! Having to go around or step into a road is dangerous and sometimes impassable. Do better. Stop putting drug addicts and people who have no regard for law above people paying to make this city better.	05/31/23 12:41 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support		05/31/23 12:46 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Oppose	For those that don't live downtown having homeless in tents is way better than having them hoarding blocks and watching them shoot up whatever is their drug of choice today. At last in their tents they had some discretion- because no one wants or needs to see that!	05/31/23 1:15 PM
437	No	Mirabai Scholz	Oppose	Everyone has a right to sleep. Moving people every day is traumatizing, and completely impossible for some people with disabilities. This law claims to value the lives of people with disabilities but has a callous disregard for people experiencing poverty and houselessness. People are just trying to survive. How can you value having the streets look nice and neat over the literal lives of hundreds of displaced Portland residents?	05/31/23 1:48 PM



Disability Rights Oregon

TO: Portland City Council
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: May 30, 2023
RE: 437 – Authorizing City Attorney to settle lawsuit

Mayor Wheeler and members of the City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the City Council on the importance of the city's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At Disability Rights Oregon, we have worked for decades to ensure that city sidewalks, curb ramps, and other facilities are free from barriers that prevent access for people with disabilities. DRO opposes Agenda Item 437, the proposed settlement of *Tozer v. City of Portland*.

Based on our experience, the settlement will be ineffective at ensuring sidewalks, curb ramps, and other facilities in Portland are free from barriers that prevent access for people with disabilities. Furthermore, the settlement is likely to cause significant harm to the 80% of homeless people in Portland who have disabilities themselves and are also entitled to protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The settlement, which barely mentions people with disabilities in its terms, does not increase the long-term accessibility of sidewalks of Portland.

The settlement does not impose any obligation on the city to clear any obstacle from the sidewalks of Portland, unless that obstacle is a person who is homeless or their belongings. People with disabilities who cannot use a sidewalk because it is poorly maintained, because the pavement is torn up by tree roots, or because it is obstructed by signs, construction materials, or discarded electric scooters receive no benefit from this settlement.

The central aim of the settlement is to create a legally enforceable right for anyone (with or without a disability) to report tent camps in Portland and to compel the city to engage in frequent sidewalk clearances. Decades of these failed efforts in Portland demonstrate that sidewalk clearances do absolutely nothing to create long term accessibility on sidewalks.

When a camp is cleared off a sidewalk, if no meaningful assistance is offered to find longer term housing, the person cleared off the sidewalk will remain homeless. In the absence of a better option, they will simply move down the street and occupy a different

stretch of sidewalk. Portland sidewalks will remain just as obstructed and inaccessible as before.

We have plenty of evidence of this exact phenomenon in Portland. In April and May of 2022, the city conducted mass, concerted camp clearances on sidewalks across Old Town, with 343 camps cleared in a matter of weeks. Yet within months, the camps were back and Old Town was just as badly off as before. In fact, the September 2022 complaint in the *Tozer* case repeatedly noted how badly blocked the sidewalks in Old Town were. Old Town's poor sidewalk accessibility was mentioned 15 times in the complaint. If the Old Town camp clearances in April and May of last year left the sidewalks of Old Town in such bad shape that they required a lawsuit by September, then there is surely no chance that doing more of the same will fix this problem.

There is another way forward. We do not have to keep doing the same failed plan over and over again. In settling a Los Angeles lawsuit around the Skid Row encampments, the city settled an ADA access suit for a \$3B investment in increased housing options. If the city finally engaged in serious planning for long-term housing, transitional housing, and supportive housing to help get people off the streets, we could truly change Portland's way forward. If the city invested the needed resources to find people real housing options in Portland, we could begin to rehabilitate our city.

Continuing to do the same camp clearances with nowhere for people to go will not make any sidewalk in Portland any clearer. While the city frequently says that it tries to connect people with services when they clear camps, the long history of those efforts shows that the city offers few resources and that most people who ask for help never hear back from the city.

Most provisions of the settlement are a clear giveaway to vocal interest groups who have long wanted to focus scarce city resources on camp clearances. Other than a vague assertion that complaints of blocked sidewalks from people with disabilities will be somehow prioritized in an unspecified manner, every enforcement mechanism is equally open to people without disabilities as people with disabilities.

This settlement creates essentially similar rights for a landlord who owns a commercial building or luxury condominium building whose own properties are not accessible as the rights it creates for a person with a disability. A complaint from someone without a disability who wants a camp cleared because it is unsightly or undesired is weighted the same as a complaint from someone who has a disability and whose way to work or school is blocked. A settlement nominally about people with disabilities does not adequately focus on their wishes, their priorities, or their needs.

511 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 200 / Portland, OR 97205

Voice: 503-243-2081 or 1-800-452-1694 / Fax: 503-243-1738 / www.droregon.org

Disability Rights Oregon is the Protection and Advocacy System for Oregon

Agenda Item	Attachment	Name	Position	Comments	Created
437	No	Phoenix	Oppose	<p>It is inhumane to keep forcing people, who already have nowhere else to go, to keep moving what little belongings they have. There is no reason why we can't come up with solutions to HOUSE these folks so that they don't NEED to sleep on the street/sidewalks, what have you. Existing shelters offer no safety or freedom. They are over crowded and often have restrictive curfews and rules. Many people have animals, which are not allowed in the shelters, but there is no solution as to where they should go. Should people not be allowed to have an animal companion while facing the harsh conditions of living on the street?</p> <p>The root problem is poverty and barriers to accessing vital services that would allow someone to maintain stable housing. Let's instead, be an example for the rest of the world and make a LIVABLE minimum wage so that people can actually afford to EXIST, especially with the insane inflation in every aspect of day to day life. You have to make 3x the rent to live a lot of places and it is nearly impossible to do that with the way workers are exploited for their labor.</p> <p>Loitering laws are rooted in racism and white supremacy and have no purpose other than to further criminalize people who are just trying to exist. These are people, not scary animals. Quite a lot of people who are FORCED to live outside end up with mental health issues, understandably so, and they need our HELP not indifference to their strife. They are not criminals for trying to survive such a harsh situation. Everyone who is writing in about "keeping the sidewalks clear for the children" lack the ability to see these people as their fellow man who need compassion and care.</p> <p>This is the time to start giving a shit about PEOPLE not capitalism or perfectionism (which is also a tenant of white supremacy by the way).</p>	05/31/23 1:54 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support		05/31/23 2:00 PM
437	No	Anonymous	Support	<p>Strongly support no longer tolerating any daytime camping within city limits whatsoever. I am particular concerned with environmentally sensitive areas and pedestrian corridors, especially those extending outside PDX city limits such as the Springwater corridor. The environmental impact of these camps, those along Airport Way, along and in the Columbia, Willamette, Johnson Creek, and so many other minor waterways, cannot be understated. It will take decades to restore what only a few years of bad policy created.</p>	05/31/23 2:18 PM

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, May 31, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First Name	Last Name
437-01	Keith	Martin
437-02	Bert	Rogoway
437-03	Lorien	Welchoff
437-03	Barbara	Jacobsen
437-04	Vadim	Mozyrsky
437-05	Pauline	Long
437-06	Chris	Meagher
437-06	Tiana	Tozer
437-07	Steve	Jackson
437-08	Mike	Wallingford
437-09	Cody	Hammerling
437-10	Mark	Barnhill
437-11	Wesley	Brown
437-12	Kristin	Olson
437-13	Johnathan	Stockton
437-14	Frank	Blackston
437-15	Cleric Heather-Lynne	Van Wilde
437-16	Monica	Cory
437-17	Tess	Cory
437-18	Lance	Goldenberg
437-19	Sara	Fischer
437-20	Sarah	Hobbs
437-21	Marianne	Guffanti
437-22	Eric	Fruits
437-23	Andrew	Wilson
437-24	Leslie	Bienen
437-25	Serenity	Ebert
437-26	Thomas	Stenson
437-27	Alan	Comnes
437-28	Stein	Nielsen
437-29	Charlen	Pennie